

# 16-year-old in officer's

WED JUL 3 1 1991

**By Harry Harris**  
*Tribune staff writer*

An Oakland police officer was shot five times early yesterday but still managed to wound the 16-year-old suspect who opened fire on him without warning, investigators said.

Officer Craig Chew was shot when one of two youths he stopped on a North Oakland street suddenly pulled a revolver and began firing, investigators said.

Chew is the first Oakland police officer to be shot and wounded this year.

Police were reluctant to discuss a motive for the shooting, but investigators believe the 16-year-old gunman and two other suspects might have been involved in earlier crimes and may have been planning another when Chew confronted them.

Chew, 25, was knocked to the pavement by the hail of bullets, which missed the protective vest he was wearing.

He was in stable condition at a local hospital with wounds to the upper chest, arm, hand and leg.

Lt. Mike Sims said as Chew lay on the ground the gunman unsuccessfully tried to get the officer's .45-caliber semiautomatic from his holster. But Chew was able to draw the gun himself and begin shooting at the youth.

The suspect, whose name was not released because of his age,

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19.81	Indianapolis	84	57	84	57
19.42	Houston	93	71	93	71
9.37	Honolulu	88	75	88	75
17.18	Fairbanks	69	49	69	49
18.12	El Paso	92	68	92	68
14.94	Detroit	79	62	79	62
10.58	Des Moines	85	67	85	67
9.37	Denver	83	62	83	62
10.58	Dayton	90	60	90	60
9.37	Dayton	79	61	79	61
9.37	Dayton	65	55	65	55

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was hit three times. He was found in a driveway on 41st Street, about a half-block from where the shots were exchanged, and was in stable condition at a local hospital.

A second 16-year-old suspect was arrested about a half-hour later at 27th and Harrison streets. His name was not released, but police said he was a cousin of the wounded suspect. Both teenagers had minor arrest records until yesterday, police said.

A 20-year-old man also was arrested and all three were being held for investigation of attempted murder of a police officer.

Chew was alone on patrol about 3:45 a.m. yesterday when the violence unfolded.

As Chew was driving on Broadway he could see a car improperly parked at the intersection of 41st and Terrace streets near an open convenience store. The car's lights were on and the two 16-year-olds were standing near it.

The 20-year-old man, who police said owned the car, was not in the immediate area and was arrested later in the morning.

Chew drove up, got out of his car and began talking to the 16-year-olds. Sims said Chew became suspicious and decided he should frisk them.

Before Chew could radio for backup officers, one of the youths "stepped back and pulled a gun," Sims said, and began shooting at the officer from less than 10 feet away.

Sgts. Jim Emery and Brian Thiem said the suspect was unable to get Chew's semiautomatic pistol from its holster and began to flee.

Chew was able to draw the

gun and fire several shots at the suspect while still lying on the ground. Chew staggered to his feet and fired more shots at the suspect, who was hit in the arm, leg and abdomen, police said.

The revolver the suspect used to shoot Chew was recovered, Emery said.

Sims said it was not until after he had been shot that Chew was able to get to his portable radio and call for help. He also was able to broadcast descriptions of the two suspects and the directions they fled.

Meanwhile, residents in the area also were calling police and dispatchers could hear gunfire in the background as they took information from callers, Emery said.

When the first officers arrived they found Chew on his feet still looking for the suspects with his gun drawn.

Chew's immediate supervisor, Sgt. Frank Lowe, said Chew's actions were not surprising.

"He's a tenacious officer," Lowe said, pointing out that even with his wounds and the emotional turmoil Chew was going through, "he still kept his head about things."

He said Chew had only been working a beat since January after coming to Oakland from Berkeley, where he had worked three years.

Berkeley Capt. Phil Doran said his department was sorry to lose Chew, who used to work as a drug task force officer there.

"He was a real hard worker and extremely likable."

Even though he has been an Oakland officer a relatively brief period, Chew was a productive one, Lowe said, describing how Chew helped identify two homicide suspects on his own.

"He often spots things other officers would overlook," Lowe said. "He's always curious and he knows what's going on. He's nosy, but it produces results."



# Shooting suspect showed no remorse

FRI AUG - 2 1991

By Harry Harris  
Tribune staff writer

A dislike of police and a fear of going to jail prompted a 15-year-old boy to shoot an Oakland police officer five times Tuesday morning, investigators said yesterday.

"His intention was to kill the officer," Sgt. Jim Emery said yesterday.

"He said he wasn't sorry and he wouldn't have felt bad if he had wounded an innocent passerby," Emery said.

"The only thing he feels bad about is being caught," Emery said.

He said the stocky teenager confessed to police Wednesday when he was interviewed in his hospital room, where he is recovering from gunshots suffered when the wounded officer was able to draw his own gun and fire back at the youth.

The officer, Craig Chew, is recovering from his wounds at a

local hospital.

Chew was shot after he confronted the suspect and a 16-year-old youth early Wednesday outside a North Oakland convenience store. The youths attracted his attention because the car they were near was parked in the wrong direction with the lights on.

Emery said Chew did not know the two teenagers and a 20-year-old, identified as Calvin Sawyer, had committed two armed robberies in Oakland and Union City a short time earlier and were planning to rob the convenience store.

All three have admitted their involvement in the robberies, which netted them less than \$300, Emery said.

The shooting suspect has been charged with attempted murder of a police officer and two counts of robbery. His 16-year-old accomplice, reportedly a

cousin, has been charged with the robbery counts as has Sawyer, police said.

Chew was by himself when he attempted to frisk the two teenagers, whose actions had made him suspicious, police said. Sawyer was hiding nearby.

Emery said the 15-year-old told him and his partner, Sgt. Brian Thiem, that he did not think the officer knew about the earlier robberies. But he was worried if the officer searched him he would find the revolver he was carrying that they had used in the holdups.

"He had a gun and he didn't want to go to jail," Emery said, adding the suspect told investigators he had found the gun on the street.

He said the youth also told investigators of his dislike for police but could give no reason for it.

"We asked him if an officer had ever given him any prob-

lem," Emery said. "He said 'no' — he just didn't like police."

Emery said the youth described how he started turning slowly away from Chew before suddenly pulling the gun from his jacket pocket and opening fire from just a few feet away.

Emery said as the youth told his story to police "he didn't show any emotion and he was totally remorseless. He said he meant to kill the officer."

Even though he was hit five times — the bullets all missed his protective vest — Chew, who had been knocked to the ground by the shots, was able to draw his .45 semi-automatic and return fire at the youth.

The suspect was hit three times, in the leg, arm and abdomen. He was only able to make it less than a half-block from the wounded officer before collapsing in a driveway, where responding officers found him.

# Some say he's hero, but officer calls it luck

By Harry Harris  
Tribune staff writer

SAT AUG 3 1991

Oakland police Officer Craig Chew doesn't remember hearing or feeling the first two gunshots that knocked him to the ground.

It was through the stinging pain of three more bullets tearing through him that he realized the gunman was "trying to kill me and I had to survive."

What Chew thought was going to be a routine stop of two teenagers early Tuesday turned into a police officer's worst nightmare when a 15-year-old youth pulled a revolver and started shooting at him without warning.

"I could see some kind of barrel, but I wasn't sure if it was a gun. He was about 4 feet away when

lice car for cover but because of his wounds could only roll onto his stomach. That's the position he was in when

I saw two real quick flashes of light, and I realized then I was in deep trouble," Chew said.

Despite being hit five times — all the bullets missed his protective vest — Chew survived his narrow brush with death and was able to draw his own gun and wound his youthful assailant.

Yesterday the 25-year-old Chew, who became an Oakland police officer in November after three years with Berkeley, spoke of his ordeal from his hospital bed.

Chew was by himself early Tuesday when he spotted the 15-year-old and his 16-year-old cousin standing near a car parked in the wrong direction near a convenience store at 41st Street and Broadway.

He decided to check them out, not knowing the

two youths and a 20-year-old man hiding nearby had a short time earlier robbed two stores and were planning to rob the convenience store.

Chew said the youths were acting suspiciously and could not provide any identification. So he asked if he could search them for weapons "for their protection and mine."

As he asked the 16-year-old to put his hands on his head he saw the younger youth reach into his pocket and "bring his arm up and point his hand directly at my face."

The first two shots knocked him "on my butt," Chew said, but he didn't realize at first that he had been shot.

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Actually, one bullet had ripped through his right bicep and the other had torn into the flesh below his right clavicle and lodged less than one-quarter inch from his aorta.

The suspect kept firing, with the next bullet smashing into Chew's right knee.

"That one I could feel. It was like someone hit me with a baseball bat."

Chew put his left hand up to shield his face and the next shot pierced some of the fingers.

He tried to roll under his police car for cover but because of his wounds could only roll onto his stomach. That's the position he was in when the suspect stood over him and shot him in the back, he said.

The gunman then tried to grab Chew's .45-caliber semiautomatic pistol from his holster, which Chew said actually helped give him the momentum to roll onto his side and pull the gun himself.

As the youth started backward, Chew, who was able to get back into a sitting position, opened fire, hitting the youth three times.

As the youth fled, Chew was able to make it to his feet and use his portable radio to call for help as well as give a description of the suspects and the directions they fled. They were captured by police and have been charged.

Some of Chew's peers consider his actions heroic, but he just thinks he was "extremely lucky," even when he was in the ambulance thinking he might die.

Chew said it saddened him when he was told by investigators the youth had no remorse over the shooting. The boy told police he meant to kill Chew because he thought he was going to find the gun and because he disliked police.

Chew believes there might be more hostility against police lately because of the videotaped beating of a motorist by Los Angeles police that has been shown repeatedly.

Chew is looking forward to return to work as soon as he can.

"I enjoy my job. That hasn't changed because of one bad person."

# Cop used excessive force in melee after fraternity dance, panel rules

fr. Nov 10 1989

The Tribune

BERKELEY — The city's Police Review Commission ruled yesterday that Berkeley police officer Craig Chew used excessive force and improperly arrested a UC-Berkeley sophomore during a disturbance at a dance sponsored by a black fraternity last July.

The complaint by Terrance Hawley, 19, was the first of a dozen complaints of police brutality during the disturbance that the commission will hear in coming weeks. Witnesses have charged that police used unnecessary force because they faced a crowd of primarily black students.

Commission chairman William Samsel said that the com-

mission felt after lengthy testimony that Chew acted improperly when he jabbed Hawley with his baton. The decision came at 2:30 a.m. yesterday.

Under Berkeley statute, the commission forwards its findings to the city manager, who decides if the officer should be punished, Samsel said. He added that the commission has also asked UC-Berkeley police and commanders of the Berkeley police to appear at a hearing to determine the cause of the riot.

Berkeley police have stated that they rushed to the scene outside the Bear's Lair at UC-Berkeley after receiving an officer in distress call from UC police.

# Young woman was armed with machete, knife

WED AUG 26 1992

By Chip Johnson, *Chew, Crazy*  
Kevin Fagan and Paul Grabowicz  
Tribune staff writers

BERKELEY — A troubled, 20-year-old People's Park protester, obsessed for years with a desire to overthrow authority, was shot and killed by police yesterday after she broke into the campus house of University of California Chancellor Chang-Lin Tien.

Rosebud Abigail Denovo was killed as she lunged with a machete toward an Oakland police officer in the second-floor bathroom of the chancellor's granite mansion. The officer fired at least three shots, one of which pierced her

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ratio by friends and police alike.

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heart, after Denovo knocked him into a bathtub, police said.

The chancellor and his wife, Di-Hwa, were unharmed. Police alerted by a silent house alarm tripped at 5:51 a.m. — evidently when Denovo cut through a basement window with a propane torch — called Tien and his wife and told them to lock their bedroom and stay inside.

UC police arrived a few minutes later and quietly escorted Tien and his wife outside before searching the mansion.

The intruder, Denovo, was a disturbed young woman who had been in and out of mental institutions and jails since the age of 12, according to friends and court documents. Always a revolutionary, she made People's Park her cause, and was described as both brilliant and erratic by friends and police alike.

Last year she was arrested on charges of storing a cache of explosives in the hills behind campus.

Last night, her death sparked a rowdy demonstration as protesters stormed down Telegraph Avenue toward Tien's house. When police blocked their path, the demonstrators lit bonfires, threw rocks, fought with officers, and attempted to tear down a fence at the park.

There were several arrests, but no major injuries reported.

Officers investigating the shooting at Tien's home said there was no evidence that Denovo had an accomplice. However, they refused to comment on the likelihood of involvement by 31-year-old Andrew Barnum, her boyfriend and fellow protester against university plans to develop People's Park.

Barnum is accused with Denovo in the 1991 explosives case, and the two were set to go to trial Sept. 14. He was seen grieving yesterday morning with friends at People's Park, and angrily refused interviews.

Friends said he went into hiding in the afternoon.

Police yesterday found a black duffel bag Denovo carried with her to the chancellor's house that contained a note outlining her intentions, but they declined to disclose the full contents of the bag.

UC police Lt. Pat Carroll said the note read in part, "To all concerned: We want the volleyball courts, the basketball courts, the bathroom, playground, pathways, driveways, water fountains and all other UC or city construction stopped."

"No interference with people's construction in People's

Park. We are willing to die for this property. Are you?"

Carroll said the note was signed by the "People's Will Direct Action Committee."

Dan Boggan, vice chancellor and head of campus security, said UC officials have no intention of halting plans to continue to develop the park. The university and many neighbors say the park, a few blocks south of the campus, has become a breeding ground for crime, drugs and violence.

"We plan to make it a functional park and one that people can use," Boggan said.

Denovo and others since the 1960s have opposed any cleanup plans, saying they want the park to remain a public refuge for the homeless and political activists.

Park protesters yesterday said they thought police "had it in" for Denovo, and they warned in a memorial service last night they would continue to fight for "liberation" of the park.

"Rosebud will not be forgotten," Tony McNair vowed at an evening memorial that drew 200 people to the park. "If the police think for one minute they're going to sweep this under the rug, they've got another think coming."

Oakland police Officer Craig Chew, who shot Denovo, had no choice but to fire, said Oakland and UC police.

Chew, who had recently returned to work after being shot five times last year by a burglary suspect, was among a number of officers summoned to help UC police search Tien's house.

Chew was in a second-floor bathroom with other officers and a dog unit when Denovo was discovered, said Oakland police Lt. Mike Sims.

He said Denovo, armed with a hunting knife and an 18-inch machete, was hiding in an adjoining bedroom, and when Chew tried to enter the bedroom she yanked the door open and brandished the machete.

Chew, pushed by the opening door into the bathtub, fired his semiautomatic pistol at the woman, hitting her in the hands and chest.

"He had no time to react other than to defend his life," Sims said. "He had to fire."

Denovo died at 7:45 a.m. at Highland Hospital in Oakland.

The Oakland homicide unit and the Alameda District Attorney's office are investigating the shooting, Carroll said.

Park regular Jim Henry had called rock radio station KFOG yesterday morning, saying Denovo phoned him from Tien's house at 6:30 a.m. to tell him she was there, police were going to kill her, and to "say goodbye" to her park friends.

Denovo, a veteran protester, was no stranger to campus neighbors or to police who remember their encounters with her.

"There are some people I wouldn't turn my back on, and she is at the top of the list," said a UC police officer who requested anonymity. "This isn't a surprise to anyone who knew her."

In the last year, Denovo was arrested at least a dozen times, her last confrontation coming with Berkeley city police 10 days ago.

After a clerk at a local copy service refused to release a package mailed to her without proper identification, she ran behind the counter, kicked the clerk and hurried away.

When she returned the following day she was arrested after scuffling with three city police officers, whom she spat at, kicked and attempted to bite, said Daryl Fair, manager at the store.

Denovo has a long history of altercations with authority figures, dating back to age 12, when she threatened to kill a vice principal at a middle school she attended in Lexington, Ky.

She is described in court records as extremely intelligent but with severe emotional problems. She had been institutionalized for mental illness several times, had undergone therapy since age 5, and had a criminal record dating to 1989, according to court documents.

Born Laurie Marie Miller and raised in Kentucky, Denovo was committed to a mental institution in 1989 because she was "beyond her parents' control," according to court records.

She escaped in 1990, and came to Berkeley because its reputation as a center for organized political protest matched her own radical political beliefs, according to court records.

"Andy (Barnum) and I wanted to only cause minor problems while they were building the volleyball courts in People's Park," Timothy "Freebird" Jacobs, a friend of the couple, once told police.

"Rosebud wanted to do more radical things. She wanted to blow things up."

Her father, Green Russell Miller, was grief-stricken when reached by phone at his Kentucky home yesterday.

"We love our daughter very much. We're going to miss her very much," he said before hanging up. Park denizens said Miller and his wife visited Denovo last month and apparently had reconciled their long-tattered relationship.

— *Contributing to this report were Tribune staff writers Janet Byron, Harry Harris, Sandy Kleffman and Dan Vasquez.*



# Calm reigns at Cal following sh

THU AUG 27 1992

By Daniel Vasquez  
Tribune staff writer

BERKELEY — People's Park was relatively calm yesterday in the aftermath of the shooting death Tuesday of a park activist who broke into the UC-Berkeley chancellor's campus residence.

Pink rosebuds, part of a make-shift memorial to Rosebud Abigail Denovo, wilted atop a pole in the park's controversial volleyball courts as UC students played the game without discussion of the death.

Last night about 80 demonstrators gathered at a vigil at

the park under the watchful eye of a similar number of police officers. No incidents or arrests were reported.

Denovo, 20, was killed by Oakland police officer Craig Chew early Tuesday when she allegedly lunged at him with a machete during a police search of Chancellor Chang Lin Tien's mansion.

Denovo's boyfriend was arrested late Tuesday after he allegedly attacked two campus police officers during a protest triggered by the death.

Seven other people were also

arrested for resisting arrest, attacking a police officer and various other charges during demonstrations that erupted in the hours after Denovo was pronounced dead at Highland Hospital.

Despite the shooting and subsequent melee on Telegraph Avenue near the campus, People's Park yesterday looked normal for itself — people peddled pot and LSD, read books and magazines, walked their dogs and slept in sleeping bags in the middle of the day.

Most of the hard-core political

activists who hung out in the park with Denovo stayed away from the park "because they were tired from last night, and too many cops are hanging around," Eli Yates, a friend of Denovo, said at the park.

He said fellow protesters who helped Denovo in her fight to wrest the park from university control were angry and hurt at her portrayal in the media as "not much more than a crazy woman."

"I really think it was an assassination because the cops had it in for her," he said as friends

# ooting turmoil

gathered around and nodded their heads. "Rosebud was one of the most courageous and dedicated human beings I ever knew."

Barnum, who joined Denovo in her attempts to "free" People's Park from the ownership of the university, was arrested after he attacked a campus police officer, said university spokesman Bob Sanders.

"He ran full speed at an officer from the middle of a crowd," said Sanders, knocking the policeman to the ground.

"Then he got up and fought

with another officer," said Sanders. Barnum was eventually subdued and arrested on charges of battery on a police officer.

"Andy was just about out of control with grief," Daniel Siegel, a friend of Barnum and Denovo, said as he lounged beneath a clump of trees where the couple usually spent the afternoons. "A lot of us are still hurting.

"My question is: Why did they have to kill her? I mean, shooting is one thing, but killing is another.

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"We won't forget this," he added. "People know she died for the dirt here in the park."

Both Barnum and Denovo were arrested together Aug. 8, 1991, on suspicion of building bombs at a makeshift Berkeley hills campsite to use against University of California officials.

Police found six completed bomb detonators, a crossbow and bomb paraphernalia among other items.

Berkeley police said they did not know if Barnum was connected to the break-in at the chancellor's house. One close friend of the couple said, "He didn't know anything about what she was going to do. If he had, he wouldn't have let her go."

University police also arrested protesters Tuesday night who allegedly threw a brick at a police car, attacked a police officer and broke a plate glass window in front of a Bancroft Avenue clothing store.

Police and university officials

said the demonstrations were relatively mild, however, compared with the riots that broke out last summer when the university began to build basketball and volleyball courts in the park. Barnum and Denovo were involved in those demonstrations, according to police and friends.

Police estimate 150 people took part in Tuesday's demonstrations. Some of them were People's Park denizens, police said, while about two-thirds of the protesters were onlookers who simply joined the outburst.

Tuesday's violence did not spread to the UC campus, police said.

A memorial service for Denovo will be held Monday at 10:30 a.m. at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Lexington, Ky., where her parents live. No funeral services are planned in the Bay Area.

Denovo will be buried in a cemetery near Lexington, her father said yesterday.

— **Tribune staff writer Kevin Fagan** contributed to this report.

# Oakland chief backs policeman

FRI AUG 28 1992

## Officer 'had no choice'

By Harry Harris  
Tribune staff writer

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An Oakland police officer's shooting of a machete-wielding woman inside the home of the UC-Berkeley chancellor was "absolutely appropriate," Oakland Chief of Police George Hart said yesterday.

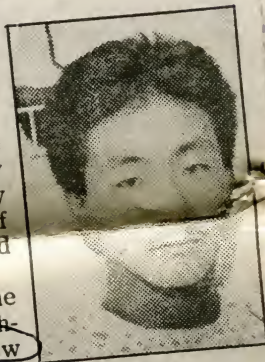
Hart said based on the evidence police have gathered, Officer Craig Chew "had no choice but to fire" the shots that killed Rosebud Abigail Denovo last Tuesday morning.

Denovo, 20, was shot three times when she attacked Chew in a bathroom at Chancellor Chang-Lin Tien's north campus home.

Police said Denovo, a self-described revolutionary, broke into the chancellor's home intending to kill him and his family. Security alarms detected her presence in the house and Chew and his dog were requested by university police to help in a room-to-room search.

Hart said the fatal shooting "was tragic and I'm sure Officer Chew would be the first to express that sentiment. But the fact is the officer did what he had to do."

Hart also said media accounts of Chew's personnel record while a Berkeley police officer three years ago "are irrelevant to what happened."



Craig Chew

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*Chief*

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It has been reported the Berkeley Police Review Commission upheld allegations of misconduct by Chew while he was a Berkeley officer in 1989.

They included making an improper arrest and abusing his discretion during a traffic stop in June 1989; and using excessive force and making an improper arrest while he was one of several officers breaking up a large brawl at the Bear's Lair pub on the university campus in July 1989.

The PRC also found Chew made an improper arrest during a raid on a drug house in September 1989.

The July 1989 finding was upheld by the Berkeley city manager's office while the June finding was not. No decision has been made in the third case.

Hart said he has no reason to believe Chew is an overly aggressive officer.

The only time he fired his gun before this week's shooting was in July of last year when a 16-year-old robbery suspect shot him five times. Chew, who returned to full-time duty only a few months ago, was able to

wound the assailant, who was later captured.

Hart said Chew's Berkeley record and his performance as an Oakland officer since he joined the department in November of 1989 show him to be "a very capable and competent officer."

Hart said "it's extremely unfortunate and inappropriate that some news stories have attempted to focus on allegations that Officer Chew had force-related complaints in his background" which "in my judgment are irrelevant to what happened at the chancellor's home.

"The fact is known by all and disputed by none that an emotionally disturbed person was attacking the officer and he had no choice but to do what he did. He was not at fault and he should not be made a fall guy for that."

Hart said the media reports of Chew's past record is "misdirected focus that in my judgment gives comfort and support to those screwballs who are attempting to rationalize their rioting on the streets of Berkeley."

— Tribune staff writer Dan Vasquez contributed to this report.

# 'She would have killed me,' officer says

By Harry Harris and Paul Grabowicz  
Tribune staff writers

SAT AUG 29 1992

For Oakland police officer Craig Chew, the 20-year legacy of violent struggle over People's Park came down to a few seconds of life-and-death confrontation.

Chew remembers vividly the look on park protester Rosebud Denovo's face as she bore down on him with a machete in the cramped quarters of a bathroom in the home of University of California at Berkeley Chancellor Chang-Lin Tien.

"I can only remember seeing her face.

Her eyes were wide open and her mouth was open, like she was yelling something, but I can't remember what, if anything, she was saying," Chew told the Tribune last night in his first interview since he fatally shot Denovo on Tuesday.

"She just had this really intense look,"

he said.

Chew said he fired at Denovo as she burst into the bathroom, wildly swinging

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Denovo used disguise, police say, A-3



the machete and sending him reeling against a wall as he retreated.

"If I hadn't fallen backwards, she would have cut my arm or head off," the 26-year-old officer recalled. "The blade came only 6 inches from my upper torso."

"I didn't even have a chance to say anything" before he instinctively fired off four rounds, Chew said. "From the time she was in view until the time she fell was just a few seconds."

"I feel bad that it had to end up this way," Chew said. "Somebody forced me to take their life, but I refuse to die for somebody who's trying to kill me."

"It's not a good guy vs. bad guy thing, or police vs. somebody else. All the politics and all the reasons were gone. It's not for a cause. They are trying to take my life. They are trying to kill me."

Police say Denovo, who got into the chancellor's house by using a blowtorch to cut through a basement window, apparently planned to attack Tien and his wife.

A year ago Denovo had been charged with making bombs to blow up Tien's house and other targets because the university was building volleyball courts at People's Park.

The park has been the source of repeated clashes between protesters and police since May 1969, when the university evicted students and others from the site.

Chew was only 4 years old at the time.

But this week he found himself drawn into the controversy because of the Denovo shooting and his record as a police officer in Berkeley from 1988 to 1990.

Denovo's supporters have questioned why Chew had to shoot her, and pointed to past decisions by the Berkeley Police Review Commission upholding citizens' complaints against him for excessive force and improper arrests.

Chew dismissed those statements, saying, "In Berkeley, because of the political atmosphere, just being there . . . you're going to get complaints. . . . You get complaints whether they're justified or not."

Chew said in each case the police internal affairs section exonerated him and he was never disciplined by the city manager.

Oakland and Berkeley police have praised Chew's work as a officer and said his shooting of Denovo was justified.

Chew joined the Oakland force in November 1990, and last year was shot five times in a confrontation with a teenage robbery suspect.

He was called to the chancellor's mansion Tuesday morning because he is a canine-handler and UC-Berkeley police wanted a dog to search the house.

When Chew arrived, he said

*'I feel bad that it had to end up this way. Somebody forced me to take their life, but I refuse to die for somebody who's trying to kill me.'*

— Craig Chew,  
Oakland police officer

officers already had identified Denovo as the intruder and knew she was armed with a machete and knife.

"They were all just signs she was there to commit a murder and basically assassinate the chancellor and his wife," Chew said.

When he entered the house, Chew said, the Tiens had locked themselves in their second-floor bedroom. With his gun drawn and his dog beside him, Chew said he joined other officers and searched the basement and ground floor of the mansion.

When they got to the second floor, some officers led the Tiens to safety, while Chew and other officers went inside another bedroom about 20 feet from where the Tiens had been.

The officers immediately sensed Denovo was nearby "because the dog was alerting on the door" to an adjacent bathroom, Chew said.

Chew said he went into the bathroom and was about to open a door to an adjoining bedroom and send the dog in, when Denovo "grabbed the handle" from the other side "and swung it open."

Chew said the dog then ran into the bedroom past Denovo.

"It happened so fast that there was no opportunity to utilize the dog. He didn't have the opportunity to recognize the threat and engage (it)," Chew said.

Chew said Denovo then lunged at him with the machete before he could try to subdue her.

"It was physically impossible because I had my back against the wall and I was off balance," he said. "There's no way I can physically control her before she would have killed me."

"I had no choice but to shoot. No one wants to take someone's life, and no police officer wants to do it in their career," Chew said. "I don't want to do it again."

Despite having two close calls with death in the last year, Chew said he has no intention of leaving police work.

"I made a commitment to myself and the dog. It sounds kind of corny, but I don't want somebody else's actions to alter my goals."



# Police: Denovo disguised herself to kill chancellor

SAT AUG 29 1992

By Daniel Vasquez  
Tribune staff writer

After crudely dyeing her hair and donning surgical gloves, Rosebud Abigail Denovo was well into an intricate plot to assassinate the UC-Berkeley chancellor when an Oakland police officer fired the shots that killed her, a police investigation found.

The report released yesterday by the University of California at Berkeley police said that when officers arrived at the campus home of Chancellor Chang-Lin Tien, Denovo was hiding and may have attempted to ambush the Oakland police officer who shot and killed her.

"In my mind, her intentions were to cause serious bodily harm or to kill," said UC police Lt. Patrick Carroll.

Police also said that Denovo was acting alone when she broke into the mansion where Tien and his wife, Di-Hwa, were sleeping at 5:51 a.m. Tuesday.

Initially, there was specula-

tion Denovo's boyfriend, Andrew Barnum, was involved in the plot to kill the chancellor, but that has been dismissed by officials.

"Based on the evidence, I believe Denovo was alone in her plans," said Carroll.

Barnum was arrested later Tuesday and charged with battery against a police officer during a daylong protest by People's Park activists who had been longtime friends of Denovo.

Oakland police officer Craig Chew narrowly escaped injury from the machete-wielding Denovo, who hid in wait for him as he searched the home with his police dog, Nero, police said.

Holding an 18-inch machete, Denovo hid behind a bedroom door that led to a bathroom where Chew and the dog were searching for the woman.

When Chew reached for the doorknob, Denovo pulled the

See **DENOV**O, Page A-4



# Molest suspect indi!

By Marina Gottschalk  
Tribune staff writer

A Contra Cos-

en from their beds while their  
parents slept in another room.  
Stone was arrested in connec-  
tion with the June kidnapping of  
11-year-old West Pittsburgh girl  
possible

door open and lunged toward the officer, slashing twice at him with her machete, according to UC police.

The harrowing details of the foiled plot were provided by police who said they used both physical evidence and the eyewitness report of an officer at the scene.

Denovo had dyed her blond hair dark shortly before the break-in, according to information given by a witness who saw her the day before when she was

Police also said that Denovo — a People's Park activist who wanted to save the park for the homeless who frequent and live in the area — had used several pairs of surgical gloves to mask her fingerprints and had "devoted much planning to the break-in."

Denovo first tried to enter the chancellor's house by using a glass cutter to open a hole in a patio door. When that failed, police said, she used a propane

torch to melt a plastic cover on another window. With the cover removed, she broke the glass and entered the house. She also triggered a silent alarm that brought police to the scene.

Responding to questions about whether Officer Chew could have avoided killing the young activist, UC Police Chief Victoria Harrison responded: "He had two choices — be killed or defend himself."

Investigators also released excerpts from diaries written by Denovo that included threats in-

volving the chancellor.

One undated example said: "I am willing to kill when necessary. I am aware that it may be necessary to kill unarmed persons. When it is necessary, I will put my personal feelings aside. I am willing to risk my life and, if necessary, die for the revolution."

In another entry in her many diaries, Denovo wrote about an ambush plan outside Tien's home in which Denovo would hide by stairs leading to the home and "use machete on anything walking up."

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# Denovo autopsy released

THU OCT - 8 1992

*Activist shot 4 times;  
police feel vindicated*

**By Chip Johnson  
and Paul Grabowicz**  
*Tribune staff writers*

A People's Park protester killed Aug. 25 when she broke into the UC-Berkeley chancellor's home was shot at least four times by a police officer — and two bullets struck her back and shoulder, according to an autopsy released yesterday.

Police said the report by the Alameda County Coroner's Office supports their initial claims that Oakland police officer Craig Chew's shooting of Rosebud Denovo, 19, was justified.

"The report reinforced our conclusions that the shooting was in self-defense," said Victoria Harrison, university police chief. "There were no surprises."

Reports released yesterday by the coroner's office state that Denovo died after suffering severe injuries to her heart, lungs, spinal cord and trachea caused by four gunshot wounds.

Toxicology tests on Denovo's body also found no traces of drugs or alcohol.

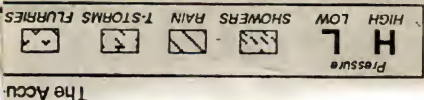
UC-Berkeley and Oakland police investigators said no determination can be made to establish the sequence of shots fired based on the coroner's report.

Chew, who is more than 6 feet tall, said he fired four shots from his semiautomatic pistol at the 5-foot, 3-inch Denovo as she burst in on him in a bathroom. Chew said he fell backward as Denovo lunged at him, swinging a machete in her right hand.

The autopsy report states the four bullets that struck Denovo included:

■ A bullet that hit Denovo in the front of her neck. It traveled

See AUTOPSY, Back Page



### Continued from Page A-1

down and to the left, and lodged in the left side of her chest.

■ Another bullet that hit Denovo in the back of the right shoulder, which she had apparently twisted forward at the time. The bullet traveled downward and to the left, lodging in the left side of her chest.

■ A bullet that hit Denovo in the right front chest. It traveled downward and to the right and exited her right shoulder.

■ A fourth bullet that hit Denovo in the middle of her back. It traveled up and to the right and exited her body from her right chest.

Denovo also was grazed on the left and right hands, but the autopsy report doesn't state whether those injuries were caused by some of the four bullets that then struck her body, or if two more shots were fired at her.

Coroner's officials declined to comment on the autopsy.

Harrison said the report supports the scenario of events described by Chew, who was placed on administrative leave after the shooting. Chew, a canine officer dispatched to search the chancellor's home, returned to work a week later.

An investigation by the Alameda District Attorney's office is continuing.

Oakland Deputy Chief Robert Nichelini said a pending administrative review of the shooting should help clarify the sequence of shots fired by Chew.

Despite law enforcement claims that the shooting was jus-

tified, community activists still have doubts.

David Nadel, a longtime People's Park activist and UC critic, still believes the shooting reveals a departure from written UC police policies for dealing with disturbed persons.

David Beauvais, an attorney representing Denovo's parents, who live in Lexington, Ky., said he will hire an independent pathologist to review the coroner's report, and reach a determination within 30 days on whether to proceed with a wrongful death suit against the university.

The autopsy examination also revealed Denovo earlier had smeared her face, neck and hands with a "black material," apparently to disguise herself when she broke into the chancellor's home.

The autopsy documents stated that after Denovo was shot, paramedics who responded found she had no pulse and was not breathing. They administered CPR, but she was pronounced dead at 7:44 a.m. at Highland Hospital in Oakland.

A coroner's investigator's report said Denovo's family had unsuccessfully tried to have her treated for mental problems in the past. In one case a physician prescribed a drug because of her "conduct disorder," but Denovo "refused to take it."

Denovo's mother also said her daughter "did take LSD one time that she knew of and might have used marijuana on and off," according to the autopsy records.

But there was no evidence of any drugs in Denovo's body when she was killed, the autopsy examination concluded.



SAT. OCT 17 1992

# Court clears officer in Denovo shooting

By Paul Grabowicz  
Tribune staff writer

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office has ruled that Oakland Police Officer Craig Chew was "acting lawfully" when he fatally shot a machete-wielding People's Park activist two months ago inside the UC-Berkeley chancellor's house.

In an investigative report on the Aug. 25 shooting, the district attorney's office said another Oakland police officer, Martin Hughes, saw Rosebud Denovo wildly swing the machete at Chew before he shot her.

The shooting occurred after Denovo broke into the chancellor's residence on the University of California campus, and UC officers called Oakland police for assistance in searching for her.

An autopsy report released two weeks ago said Chew shot Denovo four times, twice in the front of her body and once each

novos family said he was "not satisfied" with the report, especially since Denovo was shot



Craig Chew's killing of Rosebud Denovo is ruled self-defense.

in the back and back of her shoulder.

The district attorney's report, which was completed this week, said the wounds to Denovo's back could have occurred when she was "moving forward and was swinging violently with her machete," exposing the back of her shoulder and her back to Chew's line of fire.

"There is nothing in the autop-

See OFFICER, Back Page

phone call from Denovo just before she was killed.

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sy report that clearly contradicts the reported observations of either Officer Chew or Officer Hughes," said the district attorney's office, which investigates police shootings to determine if any law was violated.

The report concluded Chew "was acting lawfully when he shot and killed Ms. Denovo," because he was defending his own life and there was an "imminent danger" Denovo was going to "commit a forcible and atrocious crime."

Police have said Denovo apparently broke into the residence to assassinate Chancellor Chang-Lin Tien and his wife.

Officials at the district attorney's office declined comment on the report, and UC police officials could not be reached.

Oakland Police Chief George Hart said, "We regret the incident and we regret the death of the woman, but we feel the officer did what he had to do under the circumstances. I was confident the district attorney's investigation would verify that."

An attorney representing Denovo's family said he was "not satisfied" with the report, especially since Denovo was shot twice in the back.

raises a plausible question as to their (authorities') story," said David Beauvais.

"I'm going to have the autopsy report reviewed by a pathologist who can tell me whether it's consistent with what they're saying," he said.

Beauvais also complained authorities have not released the police reports on the shooting.

"They have refused to turn over any of the police reports, so they're asking us to accept on faith what's in those reports," he said.

Beauvais said he also has requested an internal affairs investigation by UC police — which is being considered by the chancellor's office — and has "not ruled out" the possibility of a lawsuit.

The district attorney's office stated its investigation included reviewing all the police reports, the coroner's report and statements by UC-Berkeley and Oakland police officers, as well as interviewing Officers Chew and Hughes, Chancellor Tien and his wife, and a man who received a phone call from Denovo just before she was killed.

The district attorney's report said the first encounter police

# ly' in activist's death

had with Denovo in the chancellor's home came when a UC sergeant, responding to a silent alarm, saw her come down a stairway armed with a 20-inch machete and 8-inch hunting knife.

When the officer yelled at her to drop her weapons, she discarded the hunting knife but "raised the machete to a striking position and stood there" for almost five minutes before fleeing further into the house.

Denovo then telephoned a friend and said she was "at Tien's place and they're going to kill me. I just called to say good-bye," the district attorney's report stated.

Denovo also wrote a note protesting UC's construction of volleyball and basketball courts at People's Park and pledging, "We are willing to die for this piece of land! ARE YOU?"

Oakland officers got involved when UC police requested a canine unit to help search the house.

Chew, his dog, and three more officers went into the house and freed the chancellor and his wife from a bedroom in which they had locked themselves.

Chew then went to a bathroom that connected with a room where officers outside had re-

ported seeing movement. The dog began barking at the door to that room, and when Chew tried to open the door, it was pulled from the other side.

"Ms. Denovo stepped into the bathroom and swung her machete from above her head . . . and across her body, (the blade passing) within inches of Officer Chew's left shoulder and chest," the district attorney's report said.

Chew "stumbled backward and fired his weapon" as he fell against a bath tub and wall. Denovo continued advancing and "swung the machete in a back-hand motion," its tip "narrowly (missing) the upper chest" of Chew, according to the report.

Chew fired a total of four shots before Denovo finally fell forward on her face.

Officer Hughes generally confirmed this account, according to the report, saying he saw Denovo "swinging the machete at Officer Chew" and then heard four shots.

"It was not until Ms. Denovo swung her machete and rushed . . . toward Officer Chew that he fired his weapon," the district attorney's report concluded.

— Tribune staff writer Harry Harris contributed to this report.